



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CONTACT: Marty Tuttle

Chief Legal Counsel, Montana Department of Commerce
(406) 841-2706

Marissa Kozel

Montana Department of Commerce
(406) 841-2772

**Malta Dinosaur Museum Land Purchase
Closing March 20, 2007**

(HELENA) – On Monday, March 19, 2007 the Montana Land Board gave final approval for the purchase of land, formerly known as Jan’s Floral and Greenhouse, to the Montana Department of Commerce. Purchase of the former floral shop will be used by the Board of the Judith River Foundation for the construction of the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum. Prior to the Land Board meeting, Governor Schweitzer expressed his “strong support for this extraordinary project that will finally allow ‘Leonardo’ to be shown in a museum worthy of a 77 million year old.”

Montana Department of Commerce Director Anthony J. Preite will be in Malta on Tuesday, March 20, 2007 to sign purchasing documents to finalize the purchase of land on behalf of the state.

**A signing ceremony has been scheduled for
2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20, 2007
Malta, Montana
Phillips County Title Company
53 South 2nd East.**

Director Preite said he was “honored to be able to represent Governor Schweitzer as the state continues to work in partnership with so many citizens and organizations who have worked tirelessly for so many years to see this dream of a dinosaur museum in Malta become a reality.”

The property is located next to the Phillips County Museum on Highway 2. The County Museum includes the two-story museum and the Robinson House, a restored historical home immediately to the east of the museum. With the soon to be constructed dinosaur museum right next door to the County Museum, there is no doubt a certain “synergy” will be felt in both museums.

In 2005, the state legislature passed House Bill 423, sponsored by Representative Wayne Stahl and Senator Sam Kitzenberg to appropriate \$500,000 to the Department of Commerce to purchase the land and purchase and construct a facility for a park in Malta. When completed the museum will house “Leonardo” the restored prized dinosaur discovered in the badlands near Malta in 2000.